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UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING LEPROSY-RELATED STIGMA IN CIREBON DISTRICT, INDONESIA:
DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF A SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTERVENTION BY A CLUSTER RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL

Dadun

Abstract

Leprosy-related stigma has received wide attention among scholars and practitioners. Various studies have been conducted to explore the causes and consequences of leprosy-related stigma. There has, however, been little focus on how to reduce stigma and evidence of interventions' effectiveness interventions is very scarce.

This thesis describes the complexities of leprosy-related stigma and studies how a socio-economic development (SED) intervention can reduce stigma in an appropriate, effective and sustainable manner among people affected by leprosy in Cirebon District, Indonesia. The thesis was part of the Stigma Assessment Reduction and impact (SARI) project, which applied a transdisciplinary and interactive Learning and Action (ILA) approach to develop interventions and to address the complex and persistent negative social experiences of those affected by leprosy. The study design can be described as a cluster randomized controlled trial. Three stigma-reduction interventions were designed, implemented in pairs and evaluated using quantitative and qualitative research methods.

All three pairs of stigma-reduction interventions are able to address stigma at multiple levels and address different types of stigma among people affected by leprosy and members of the community in which they live. In addition, a numbers of lesson on how to reduce the impact and consequences of stigma can be drawn from this thesis, which also resulted in a new validated scale to measure leprosy-related stigma in Cirebon District and advanced understanding of such stigma.

Key wordS: Stigma reduction; Leprosy-related stigma; Socio economic development; pair intervention; randomized control trial; new stigma scale; Indonesia.